

Filed for intro on 02/10/97  
SENATE BILL 51 By  
Person

HOUSE BILL 583  
By DeBerry J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 66, Chapter 7,  
relative to the termination of rental agreement by landlord  
or district attorney general.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 66, Chapter 7, is amended by adding the  
following section:

Section 66-7-1-\_\_\_\_.

(a) A rental agreement may be terminated where the premises are used or  
occupied in whole or in part to violate Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-417.

(b) The district attorney general for the district in which real property is located,  
in a jurisdiction having a population in excess of five hundred thousand ( 500,000)  
according to the 1990 federal census or any subsequent federal census, may serve  
personally upon the owner or landlord of the premises so used or occupied, or upon the  
owner or landlord's agent, a written notice requiring the owner or landlord to make an  
application for the removal of the person so using or occupying the premises. If the  
owner or landlord or the owner or landlord's agent does not make such application within  
five (5) days or, having made it, does not in good faith diligently prosecute it, the district  
attorney general may bring a proceeding under this section for such removal as though  
the petitioner were the owner or landlord of the premises, and shall have precedence  
over any similar proceeding thereafter brought by such owner or landlord or to a

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proceeding previously brought by such owner or landlord and not prosecuted diligently and in good faith. The person in possession of the property and the owner or landlord shall be made respondents in the proceeding.

(c) A court granting relief pursuant to this section may order, in addition to any other costs provided by law, the payment by the respondent or respondents of reasonable attorneys fees and the costs of the proceeding to the petitioner. In such cases multiple respondents are jointly and severally liable for any payment so ordered, and the amounts of such payments are a lien upon the subject real property.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.